

'Three Men and a Baby' relies on cuteness

Richard Smith
Cinema

A remake of the successful French comedy "Trois Hommes et un Couffin," "Three Men and a Baby" is Touchstone Pictures' holiday offering, guaranteed to melt the coldest heart and make audiences nationwide go "Awww..."

The film's appeal, it must be said, is entirely due to 6-month-old twins Lisa and Michelle Blair, who together play Mary Holden. It has little to do with stars Ted Danson, Steve Guttenberg and Tom Selleck, and absolutely nothing to do with Leonard Nimoy's erratic direction.

Mary smiles on cue, cries on cue and, most importantly, even poos on cue. She outshines her three reluctant fathers in every scene, and the audience loves every diaper-changing, nipple-sterilizing bit of it. Which is a good thing, because Danson and Selleck, both of whom have met with little success on the big screen to date, would be onto a loser otherwise. Guttenberg, of course, has been a successful star of, among other films, the "Police

Academy" series, but he's still waiting for his big break. This is not it.

The three would-be stars play roommates in a huge, expensively furnished New York apartment. Jack (Danson) is an actor, Michael (Guttenberg) is an artist, and Peter (Selleck) is an architect. They work and play hard and have a seemingly endless supply of women taking the elevator up to their apartment, if the amusing, fast-speed introduction is anything to go by.

The fun starts, presumably, when Danson goes off to shoot a movie in Turkey and a baby is dumped on the apartment doorstep during his absence. Guttenberg and Selleck have been told to expect a package, and they think that this is it. But

of course they are wrong, and while the two buddies (who are eventually joined by Danson, the baby's mortified father) try to cope with looking after the bundle of joy, a subplot involving drugs, police and goodness knows what else evolves around them. Why the subplot wasn't rejected during the French script's many rewrites is something of a mystery. As director Nimoy would have said in the role that made him famous, "It is illogical, Captain."

And the script and direction are also illogical. The countless rewrites and change of director at the 11th hour unfortunately results in inconsistency and a storyline that seems unfinished. At various points the film appears to be on the verge of saying something important about the irresponsibility of single men and the responsibility of parenthood, but it never quite makes it. What is left is an alternately funny, sad, silly, serious film that just can't

make up its mind what it wants to be.

It is not unenjoyable, however. The film is at its best when the three hapless roommates are trying desperately to look after the baby. Danson has a wonderful scene in which he, at his wit's end as to how to entertain Mary, takes the baby into the shower with him and sings to her. Later, all three guys lullaby the baby to sleep with The Spaniels' "Goodnight, Sweetheart, Goodnight."

But it is Selleck who gets the best scene of all. Arguing that it is not so much *what* you tell a baby as a bedtime story but *how* you tell it, Selleck reads in slow, hushed tones from Sports Illustrated: "The champ began round five like a man possessed despite a gaping wound to his left eye..." It's very cute.

And cuteness is the movie's strength. Its stars are likable, the baby is fabulous, and Touchstone Pictures will be raking in the money.

Sports

Schroeder, Schmidt lead Tar Heel romp

From staff reports

The UNC men's and women's swimming and diving teams swept to a crushing victory Wednesday in beautiful Koury Natatorium, pounding the Duke Blue Devils.

The women's squad won all 13 events in the process of defeating Duke, 152½-51½. The victory upped UNC's record to 4-0, 2-0 in the ACC, while the Blue Devils fell to 3-1, 0-1 overall.

The Tar Heels were led by diver Erika Schmidt and swimmer Wendy Powers. Schmidt won both the 1-meter and 3-meter dives, capturing the first event with a total of 233.925 points and the second with 248.175 points.

Powers won the 200 backstroke with a time of 2:10.38, and also helped UNC win the 200 medley relay and the 400 free relay. In the 200 medley,

Powers combined with Karin Andren, Jill Benda and Tammy Virag to win with a time of 1:50.82. In the 400 free, Powers swam with Jenny Hinshaw, Nila Deeb and Ellen Young to take the event in 3:45.00.

Benda won the 100 free in 54.74, while Andren took the 200 free in 1:57.42 and Deeb captured the 1000 free with a time of 10:42.16. Young took the 50 free in 24.87.

As for the men, they enjoyed similar success, crushing Duke 152-64. The win raised UNC's record to 3-0, 2-0 in the conference.

The squad was led by Tod Schroeder, who swam on two winning relays in the 400 free and the 400 medley, and by Jon Austin, who did the same. Tony Monasterio, Matt Countie and John Morrison each swam on a victorious relay team while also winning an individual event.

Koll, Catullo pace wrestlers' pin parade

From staff reports

The eighth-ranked UNC wrestling team continued to bend its opponents into curious shapes Thursday night in Carmichael Auditorium, as the Tar Heels dominated Liberty College en route to an easy 25-10 victory.

The win upped UNC's record to 4-1, while Liberty lost its first meet of the season.

UNC was led, as usual, by senior All-American Rob Koll and the brilliant junior Enzo Catullo. Koll, wrestling at 167, decided Kevin Frame 10-1. Catullo, at 142, had a similarly easy time with Warren Stewart, whom he decided 13-3.

Perhaps the best match of the night came at 158, where UNC's Jay Landolfo pulled out a tough win over Bob Good. Landolfo squeaked past Good by the narrow margin of 17-14.

Also close was the match at 177, where a Liberty wrestler won for only

the third time all night. Kip Fennelly decided Pete Bearse, 9-7. Not willing to be outdone, UNC's Ben Oberly and Liberty's Russ DeVoss squared off at 190 and grappled their way to a 9-7 decision, with Oberly on the winning end.

The most dominant win of the night came courtesy of sudden Tar-Heel star John Welch, who at 134 decided Greg O'Boyle, 13-0. UNC's Mike Toplisek dropped a close match at 150 to Liberty's Tim Morris, 6-5.

There was a tight contest at 126, but Tar Heel Gino Giumarello came out on top, deciding Chris Eberwine, 6-4. Finally, in the heavyweight class, UNC's Glen Pazinko had an easy time with Ron Young, cruising to a 7-2 win.

There shall be no respite for the weary, though. The Tar Heels take on Old Dominion in Carmichael today, with match time 3 p.m.

DTH Picks of the Week

It's been two weeks since the last DTH Picks of the Week appeared, and that's probably due to the sense of shame which each of our illustrious, swashbuckling band of prognosticators felt after their pitiful showing in what was this year's best week of college football.

At the bottom of the group were Mike (How did she get my number?) Bernardino and Chris (My loyalty doesn't stretch as far as Baltimore) Spencer, who turned in abysmal 3-7 records, missing on all the big games of the week. Not much better was Patton (Who's Billy Owens?) McDowell, whose 4-6 performance dropped him one game behind James (Telepathy is best) Surowiecki in the

overall standings. Surowiecki had a miraculous 5-5 record despite transmitting his picks through the ether via brain waves.

What's left are two regular-season contests and 18 bowl games, and memories of last year, when front-runner Scott Fowler fell into a tie for second and Bernardino catapulted to victory, will undoubtedly haunt Surowiecki. Will BerMo make up his six-game deficit? Does Spencer have any hope of redemption? Will the mystery man making McDowell's picks give him the win? Or will Surowiecki hold on, and give hope to pseudo-intellectuals everywhere? Tune in after break. The answers will be waiting.

	James Surowiecki (75-40-4) 660	Mike Bernardino (69-46-4) 624	Patton McDowell (74-41-4) 660	Chris Spencer (67-47-4) 606
Games				
S. Carolina at Miami, Dec. 5	USC	USC	Miami	USC
Army vs. Navy, Dec. 5	Army	Army	Army	Navy
California Bowl, Dec. 12	SJSU	SJSU	SJSU	SJSU
Independence Bowl, Dec. 19	Wash.	Wash.	Wash.	Wash.
All-American Bowl, Dec. 22	BYU	Va.	Va.	Va.
Sun Bowl, Dec. 25	OSU	OSU	OSU	OSU
Aloha Bowl, Dec. 25	UCLA	Fla.	UCLA	UCLA
Liberty Bowl, Dec. 29	Ga.	Ga.	Ga.	Ga.
Freedom Bowl, Dec. 30	ASU	ASU	ASU	ASA
Holiday Bowl, Dec. 30	Iowa	Iowa	Wyo.	Wyo.
Gator Bowl, Dec. 31	USC	USC	LSU	USC
Bluebonnet Bowl, Dec. 31	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt	Pitt
Florida Citrus Bowl, Jan. 1	PSU	Clem.	PSU	Clem.
Fiesta Bowl, Jan. 1	FSU	FSU	Neb.	FSU
Cotton Bowl, Jan. 1	ND	ND	ND	A&M
Rose Bowl, Jan. 1	MSU	USC	MSU	MSU
Orange Bowl, Jan. 1	OU	OU	Miami	Miami
Sugar Bowl, Jan. 1	SU	Aub.	SU	SU
Peach Bowl, Jan. 2	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.	Tenn.
Hall of Fame Bowl, Jan. 2	Mich.	Mich.	Ala.	Ala.

TAR HEEL SPORTS SHORTS

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

UNC TOURNAMENT

Friday

6:00 PM Iowa vs. Northeastern

8:00 PM Saturday UNC vs. Michigan

2:00 PM Consolation Game

4:00 PM Championship Game

CARMICHAEL AUDITORIUM

Hardee's

Johnny Cash to perform with Durham Symphony

By JAMES BURRUS
Staff Writer

Singing about the working class man and doing benefits for social causes are popular things to do in the music business today, but Johnny Cash, the Man in Black, has been doing these things for over 30 years.

Cash will do another benefit concert this Saturday when he comes to Durham to do a show for The Durham Symphony and the Duke University Eye Center.

The symphony will perform selections from Tchaikovsky's "Sleeping Beauty" and "The Nutcracker" as well as "Sleigh Ride" to open the show. Cash will do one number with the symphony and, after a brief intermission, will perform his full set.

Cash supports a variety of different causes, including mental health associations, refuges for battered women and local humane societies. In the past he has done benefit prison concerts and corresponded with many prisoners, helping them return to society. In fact, some of Cash's

most famous songs are about prisoners. Earlier this year, he received three multi-platinum records for selling over 2 million copies of his LPs *Folsom Prison*, *San Quentin* and *Greatest Hits*. No one else received that many multi-platinum citations in 1986 or 1987.

That is just a small part of what Cash has accomplished, however.

He has won numerous Grammy Awards and sold more than 50 million records. This year he was nominated for a Grammy for his contributions to *Class of '55*, an album with fellow legends Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison and Carl Perkins.

Cash has put 48 singles on Billboard's Hot 100 pop charts, which ranks him ahead of such superstars as Hall and Oates and Michael Jackson.

He placed 26 albums on the pop charts between 1955 and 1972, the same number as The Beatles during that span.

Although most of the Man in Black's accomplishments have come in the music business, Cash has also done exceptionally well in other areas.

Cash had his own television show from 1969 to 1971, which showcased a variety of music artists, including Stevie Wonder, Neil Diamond and The Who.

The Man in Black has also written two books and starred in numerous movies. His autobiography, "Man in Black," was a best-seller. His latest literary work is a religious novel titled "Man in White." Some of his movies include "The Pride of Jesse Hallam" and "A Gunfight."

Cash recently signed with a new label, Mercury/Polygram Records. His debut album for the record company, *Johnny Cash is Coming To Town*, includes a song written by Elvis Costello and a song titled "Heavy Metal Don't Mean Rock 'n' Roll." Performing on the album alongside Cash is his daughter Cindy

and his wife June Carter.

Cash's family has a lot of musical talent. His oldest daughter, Rosanne, has a gold album and his teenage son, John, is the frontman for a hard rock band.

Besides representing blue-collar Americans and social causes before it was popular, Cash wore black before it was fashionable.

When Cash was getting ready to perform at the Grand Ole Opry for the first time, he noticed that all the performers were wearing rhinestones and a lot of different colors. He decided to wear black that night, and he has been wearing it ever since. Cash also says he wears black as a symbol of mourning over some of the social ills in the country.

The Durham Symphony will perform with Johnny Cash and the Carter Family Saturday at 8:15 p.m. in Cameron Indoor Stadium at Duke. Tickets are available at all Ticketron outlets.

<p>Friday</p> <p>2 p.m. Order of the Bell Tower will stuff exam survival kits in Union 211. Attendance required.</p>	<p>10 a.m. Union 211. Attendance required. Anglican Student Fellowship will have its Saturday Morning Breakfast cooked by faculty advisers in the Chapel of the Cross. Cost \$1.</p>	<p>8 p.m. The Music Department presents a concert of classical string quartets featuring Wissick, Richard Luby, Ruth Johnson and Ann Woodward in Hill Hall. Free and open to public.</p>
<p>Saturday</p> <p>9 a.m. Order of the Bell Tower will deliver Exam Survival Kits. Meet in</p>	<p>3 p.m. WXYC FM-89.3 presents the UNC-Clemson Final Four soccer match live from Clemson.</p>	<p>11 a.m. UNC Gaming Club will meet until 5 p.m. in Union 210.</p>
	<p>7 p.m. Baptist Student Union will have a Christmas</p>	<p>7:30 p.m. Wesley Foundation will have a traditional Moravian Lovefeast Service at 214 Pittsboro St.</p>

STREET TRASH 11:30 FRI. & SAT.

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—Gene and Roger

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STEVE GUTTENBERG

Three Men and a Baby

9:25 • 4:30 • 7:25 • 9:30 • 11:30

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—Wes Craven, FILM DIRECTOR

"ERASERHEAD" meets 'NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD' on the set of 'TEXAS CHAINSAW MASSACRE'."

—Tommy Vonce, RADIO 1, England

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—Paul Sherman, BOSTON HERALD

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with R.L. RYAN as Frank Schnizer and introducing TONY DARRROW as Nick Duran
music by RICK ULFIK editor DENNIS WERNER special makeup effects by JENNIFER ASPINALL
associate producer FRANK FAREL written and produced by ROY FRUMKES
directed by JIM MURO

WARNING: This motion picture contains scenes of horror that may be considered too intense for persons under the age of 17. NO ONE UNDER 17 ADMITTED